



News Release

Minister of Environment: Polar Bear Not an At-Risk Species

IQALUIT, Nunavut (May 28, 2010) – The Honourable Daniel Shewchuk, Minister of Environment, today announced a change in the Government of Nunavut’s position on the proposed up-listing of the polar bear as a species of Special Concern under the Federal *Species at Risk Act* (SARA). Due to a lack of evidence indicating that polar bears meet the criteria for the Special Concern designation, the Government of Nunavut is not supporting Environment Canada’s proposal to change the listing.

Inuit hunters have a close relationship with the land and wildlife. They have observed that the overall population of polar bears in Nunavut is not declining as some suggest, but rather is thriving. No known environmental or other factors are currently posing a significant or immediate threat to polar bears overall. Furthermore, Inuit knowledge and science corroborate that the species can and will adapt to changing and severe climatic conditions, as it has done for centuries.

“Nunavut has an excellent track record of collaborative wildlife management using the best available